



The Florida House of Representatives

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Legislation to Bring Accountability & Transparency to the Judicial Process Passes House Civil Justice Subcommittee

Tallahassee, Fla. – Two proposed committee bills (PCBs) relating to Judicial transparency and accountability, today passed the House Civil Justice Subcommittee.

The PCB on Judicial accountability increases the threshold that appellate court judges must receive during a merit retention election to 60 percent. The second PCB on Judicial transparency revises the Judicial Qualifications Commission (JQC) to make investigative reports a matter of public record. The House Civil Justice Subcommittee also held a work-shop on legislation that proposes to create efficiencies in the Supreme Court.

“This legislation will create transparency and accountability that our state’s judicial process is currently lacking,” said Representative Eric Eisnaugle (R-Orlando), chairman of the House Civil Justice Subcommittee.

“To date, no appellate court judge has lost a merit retention vote, essentially making an appointment to the appellate level a lifetime appointment,” said Representative Eisnaugle. “By increasing the threshold to 60 percent, judges will be held more accountable to the voters they serve.”

“Our committee also work-shopped a proposal to specialize the jurisdiction of the state’s highest court into one Supreme Court for civil appeals and another Supreme Court for criminal appeals,” said Representative Eric Eisnaugle. “Death penalty delays have been on the rise for decades and this proposal would give our courts the tools to resolve death penalty cases with accuracy and efficiency, for both the accused and the victims.”

“I applaud the members of the Civil Justice Subcommittee for passing this legislation out of committee today,” said Representative William Snyder, chairman of the House Judiciary

Committee. “It is critical that each branch of our government be open, transparent and accountable to Floridians, and this legislation would improve those aspects of the Judicial branch. I look forward to vetting these bills in the Judiciary Committee as we move forward.”

For more information regarding these PCBs, please visit the [Florida House of Representatives Civil Justice Subcommittee webpage](#).

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